

January 4, 1896 Societies: Culture Club, Bay View Reading Circle.

The Shakespeare Club is to be known as the T.W.O. Club.

January 11, 1896 Walton's have four full page ads.

Hon. John Virgin was the speaker at the Farmer's Institute at Sibly.

January 18, 1896 Dr. Sam Barnes is running for State Senator.

The M.E. Epworth League has 150 members and is in a flourishing condition.

Jesse Steven has bought the Chicago Coal and Lumber Company.

January 25, 1896 Anita Pence and Charles Purdum married.

T.W.O. Reception to the members of the Bay View Circle.

Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Filley visited Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Day in Wing this week.

Payson vs. Oliver

Supreme Court verdict: The suit was brought by Florence Rose, a daughter. She attacked the title to 1180 acres Judge Payson purchased at the Sheriff's sale. The verdict given was that the title of the Sheriff's sale was good, but that 780 acres had been fraudulently obtained and remanded the case with directions to the Circuit Court to enter up decree and have an accounting of the rents obtained, and deduct the expense of improvements, etc. The value of the property is about \$50,000.00. Judge Payson is to be required to account for the proceeds of the sale. The Payson lawyers were CC Strawn and Judge Pillsbury.

February 1, 1896 William Karnes obituary. (Tom's father.)

Fire at South side school started from soot in a vacant room. Karnes was not the janitor then, but he was always much interested in the schools, and he gave the alarm and got out the hand hose. He suffered a heart attack and died.

Republican Love Feast.

F.A .Beach, John Virgin and others attended the Farmer's Institute at Eureka.

Fairbury has the Farmer's Institute. The Hon. John Virgin was chairman. The energy of these officers with the hearty cooperation of H. H. Remington, Dr. Barnes and T.A. Beach went far to make the Institute the success it was.

Grandmother Wray is 104 years old. Woodcut. "She was born when George Washington was president. She has seen the administrations of all the presidents down to Grover Cleveland's second term. She was a girl in her teens when Fulton's steamboat made it's trial trip on the Hudson River; she was near thirty years old when the world saw the first iron plow. She might have traveled on the first railroad passenger train after passing her 35th birthday. She was forty years when the tinderbox was superseded by the Lucifer match. She was 46 when steam communication was first established between Europe and America, and six years afterwards the first telegram was sent under the ocean.

February 15, 1896 Tom Smith made the trip to his farm in his new boat "Mayflower" last week. He went down Indian Creek east of the city, and the Vermillion River, a distance of twelve miles, the time being three hours. Considerable time was taken getting around foot logs and wire fences and making necessary repairs. It was the first trip like that in many years.

February 29, 1896 Thomas Day of Wing, spent Sunday with A.F. Filley.

H.I. Taylor is sick. Taylor and Bartlett will sell their live stock.

Miss Gertie McDowell received an elegant gold watch and chain Monday. It was a birthday present from her father, J.W. McDowell.

March 7, 1896 Ollie McKee has been teaching school in Gilman.

P.C. James was in Pontiac to see George Klein.

March 14, 1896 Picture of Dr. Sam Barnes, Candidate for political nomination.

Tramps are bothersome.

March 21, 1896 See the Lady Minstrels (Fairbury Eastern Star.)

A company of children, boys and girls, aged from 9 to 14 years from New York, Juvenile Assylum will arrive at the Phoenix hotel, Pontiac, March 18th. Anyone desiring can take a child into their home on trial, promising the children will be indenture until of age. Hand bills regarding the venture may be seen at all post offices.

March 28, 1896 While excavating in a mound on the farm of Thomas Smith a few miles north of town, workmen found a stone pipe, copper spear head, and a part of a skeleton, presumably of ancient mound builders. The relics were found while digging a cellar and cistern for the new house, and it is possible that the mound contains many more of the same kind.

The Board of Supervisors had a special meeting to grant a franchise for poles and wires on the highways for a long distance telephone along the C and A. It is to be hoped that Fairbury will be favored.

Dr. Davies has been invited to fill the pulpit of the Presbyterian Church. He had preached here several times.

April 4, 1896 (I thought the Blade didn't take patent medicine ads?)

Walton's 3 full page ads.

Dr. Davies accepts.

April 11, 1896 Mrs. G.C. Lewis is Assistant Superintendant of the M.E. Sunday School.

April 18, 1896

Big Store in Ashes

Walton Bros. Palace of Trade catches fire at midday and is soon a furnace of flames.

Many other Concerns lose.

The losses are only partially covered by insurance, and a few have no insurance.

A fine structure will be built on the ruins.

A picture of the fire, with a two and a half column account of the same. Nothing in the store was saved. Virgin's property was saved, but the house things were damaged by reckless violence in moving them. The Chenoa fire company was called, and made the train in 8 minutes. They got the hose cart on the tender of the engine and themselves alongside. The train got here ahead of time. It went a mile a minute. Walton's loss was \$75,000 on stock and \$12,000 on the building.

Carrithers and Agard loss \$1,800.00, insurance \$400.00. Their library was burned. Dr. Rayburn, loss \$1,500.00. Insurance \$800.00. Jay Tyler, barber and baths, loss \$750.00. Insurance \$750.00. Others firms surrounding were partly damaged.

Dr. Rayburn is moving to the Claudon Bank Building.

May 9, 1896 Walton's have two full page ads of new goods. They are in their agricultural room on the south side of the street. They paid spot cash for everything. The other fire of twelve years ago was almost a total loss, too.

The citizens want a shoe factory to locate here.

Schouler's bakery and ice cream parlor.

May 16, 1896 Ida Steers and Charles Burrell shooting. Burrell, a jealous hired hand, shoots and kills girl who did not like him. She died four days after the shooting.

To Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Churchill, a son. Dr. Lewis.

A new water pump has been ordered for the city.

May 30, 1896 The fire company has 300 feet of new hose and two new nozzles for the next fire.

June 6, 1896 Fairbury has a bicycling club of about 30 members. Their rooms are over Payne and Amsler's Clothing Store. The front room is a reading room and the rear is an athletic room.

A.F. Filley and Thomas Day of Wing, were in Odell Thursday on business.

June 13, 1896 Bay View Circle Reception for the T.W.O. Club at the residence of Mayor and Mrs. L.B. Dominy.

Dr. Davies installed.

June 20, 1896 A new electric light contract has been given by the city council.

A quarter page ad of Farley's studio.

June 27, 1896 Mr. and Mrs. John Virgin are to travel in the west.

July 11, 1896 A bicycle parade. There were fifty of them, each one had a Japanese lantern. It was in the evening and they rode through the streets "in gallant array". One of the features of the parade was Ed Nontoble's umbrella which had several lanterns suspended from it. The line extended over two blocks.

P.C. James took a string of horses to the Pontiac races July 4th and captured everything in sight, taking three first prizes. In the free-for-all trot or pace, his trotting horse Oma took first place easily, as did Howard King in the three minute trot, and Daisy in the farmer's pace or trot. Mr. James has a fine string of well trained and speedy young horses of the very best blood. He will attend the Fairs this summer and fall, starting in on the Henry Circuit, and will no doubt bring home many trophies of victory.

July 13, 1896 Mr. and Mrs. C.L. Perlee entertained 100 guests at their home on east Elm street to celebrate their fifth wedding anniversary.

EA Agard is attending the National Glass Blowers Convention. He is a member of the executive committee of that body and prominent in the council of the leaders.

July 25, 1896 New water pump tested.

Walton's new building started.

Nate Foster was in Walton Bros. basement when a workman above threw down a heavy trestle. It hit him on the back of the head and neck and the plank broke in two. Foster was seriously hurt. Drs. Parsons and Lewis attended him.

Dr. Lewis sewed up the young son of Ide Harris. He had fallen out of a tree.

An Unnecessary amount of kicking has been indulged in on account of the sweet clover that grows so rank along the sides of some of the roads and in some of the streets. As a matter of fact sweet clover is not a bad weed. It doesn't trouble cultivated fields, it has an agreeable perfume, and it beats rag weed and dog fennel out of sight. Besides it is good bee pasture.

George Decker, the baseballist.

C.L. Perlee sold his grocery store to J.H. Hyland. Parlee is to give his time and attention to the cold storage business.

August 8, 1896 F.L. Churchill is building a new residence in the corner of Second and Maple.

Dr. AH Thatcher locates in Fairbury.

Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Filley and Miss Ruth Filley are visiting the family of Capt. William Strawn in Odell.

Frank Duell's baby son dies.

Agard at Gas Blowers Association in Pittsburgh.

August 22, 1896 P.C. James is attending the Farmer City Fair with a string of 15 horses.

Mrs. P.C. James and daughter, Leona, visited the family of Capt. Wm. Strawn of Odell the first of the week. Miss Hattie Strawn returned to Fairbury with her for a short visit.

September 6, 1896 On August 12th, Lu McDowell married Richard Taylor in Ogden. "The bride is one of Ogden's refined and noble women, held in high honor and esteemed by all who knew her."

George Decker has broken his wrist.

The new residence of Mr. and Mrs. F.L. Churchill bids fair to be one of the finest in town.

September 12, 1896 Decription of Jay Tyler's new "Shaver's Palace".

Walton's Grand Opening Wednesday.

Mother's Club. Paper on "The Child, What is He?" Also, "The Influence of Heredity and Prenatal Training."

Walton's ads, 4 full pages.

There is a Merry-Go-Round in town opposite Bethard's store.

Mrs. P.C. James and Mrs. J.W. Morris attended the Saybrook Fair this week.

P.C. James' trotting stallion, Howard King, took first money in the three minute trot at the Saybrook Fair last Wednesday. Mr. James also received several prizes in the show ring.

September 19, 1896 New Palace of Trade. Walton Brothers and Employees rejoice in the completion of their magnificent new quarters.

The new edifice a credit to Fairbury and worthy of the big concern for whose use it was built and whose business it was designed to accommodate. (Two and three fourths columns and a picture of the brothers.)

Anti-Horse Thief picnic.

A.N. Black successor to C.L. Perlee's Store.

Gertrude McDowell is attending Northwestern University.

T.D. George who owns over 40 acres of land adjoining this city on the west is making extensive improvements thereon. He is building a fine two story residence which when completed will be a model home. The buildings are being erected in the midst of a fine walnut grove which used to be a pleasant place for picnickers and other pleasure seekers.

The Thomas House is getting a new coat of paint.

Farley's name is now a son synonym for artistic photography.

September 26, 1896 Headlines: Fairbury Fair is over. The Political days were a success and the speakers address interested the audiences. It is thought that the finances will come out all right.

Capt. Strawn of Odell is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Filley.

Mr. and Mrs. John Virgin have returned from their western trip.

October 3, 1896

Keep the Children off the Streets at Night....

A reasonable curfew ordinance thoroughly and impartially enforced would be a good thing in Fairbury. There are too many young people of both sexes running the streets at night, who have no possible business there and who are certain to fall into bad company and learn evil ways. It is nothing uncommon to see girls from 10 to 16 loafing about the streets singly or in company long after the stores have closed for the night flirting with young men (sometimes older ones) and having what they call "a time" in various dangerous and imprudent ways. Some of the girls belong to good families whose parents presumably hold the reputation and good character of their daughters above price. Why such parents do not take effective measures to keep their girls off the streets is a thing that cannot be reasonably explained. The street at night is no place for a girl or a boy either, for that matter.

Canes in Walton Bros. clothing store.

Sweet Virginia self rising pancake flour, best on the market, for sale by Walton Bros.

We give special attention to serving parties, receptions, weddings, etc, with refreshments. We make and serve all kinds of fine ices, creams, frozen puddings and cakes. Amsbarry Bros.

E.M. Stuckey and Co. start new drug store. Stuckey speaks German. (Given special attention in the ad.)

Miss Louisa Von Tobel returned from Wodenswell, Switzerland, where she had been attending school for a year and a half.

October 10, 1896

Filley – Fulton

Married, at the residence of the bride's father in Fairbury, on Wednesday, October 7, 1896, by Rev. E.S. Wilson, pastor of the M.E. Church, Miss Ruth Filley to Mr. Newton E. Fulton of the same city. The ceremony took place promptly at five o'clock p.m., and was witnessed by about forty invited guests, relatives and intimate friends. The bride wore a becoming dress of white silk while the groom wore regulation black. The wedding march was played by Miss Franc Wilson. The rooms were tastefully and appropriately decorated with foliage and flowers. After a bountiful wedding supper and hearty congratulations, mingled with copious showers of rice, the newly pair were driven in a carriage to Chenoa, where they took the train for St. Louis. Their wedding tour will embrace that and other places after which they will be "at home" in Fairbury. A large number of beautiful and useful gifts were received. Among the most honored of the guests are Mrs. Mary Ray, great-great grandmother of the bride, who is well along in her 105th year. In fact five generations of the bride's relatives were present at the wedding, certainly a very unusual occurrence in wedding history. The bride is one of Fairbury's best known and most popular young ladies and well calculated to make an excellent wife. The groom is a rising young newspaper man, one of the most industrious and enterprising of that hard working fraternity. Mr. and Mrs. Fulton start in life with good prospects and amid general good wishes.

Herbert Powell is to speak at the Republican Club at Weston.

October 17, 1896 Uncle Thomas Beach was in Ohio last week. He attended the great meeting at Cincinnati addressed by ex-president Harrison, and is strong in the faith that Ohio will give a large republican majority.

October 24, 1896 Big Free Silver rally, Fairbury.

W.J. Bryan to speak at Pontiac.

October 31, 1896 Dr. Sam Barnes (woodcut) candidate for State Board of Education on the Republican ticket.

Republican rally and parade.

(Mostly political news.)

Shakespeare recital at the High School.

A number of juvenile enthusiasts had a political parade the other evening on the south side. They mustered all the horns and flags and things of that kind they could and they had a gorgeous time. Some of them were for McKinley and sound money, and some were for Bryan and everyone was vociferously enthusiastic on his own side. It probably did not affect the result but the youngsters had lots of fun.

November 6, 1896 Big first page political cartoon.

November 13, 1896 Barnes elected.

Amsbury restaurant sold to Melbourne and Griggs.

The Marsh Park case was decided by the Supreme Court in favor of the city. Carrithers was the city attorney. "We understand that Mayor Dominy and several of the aldermen are in favor of improving the park and making it a pleasant place of resort."

Chicken and waffle supper at Presbyterian Church. Bill of fare: Chicken a la Fricassee, waffles with maple syrup, pickles, peaches and cream, coffee or tea, cake. Supper will be served from 5 o'clock through the evening. Price 25 cents.

November 20, 1896 Complaint is made to the Blade that George Milne bet a Republican lady a wheelbarrow ride on the election and lost, and has so far entirely failed to redeem his part of the contract.

November 27, 1896 Harry Bartlett has procured two ears of the celebrated "Mummy Corn" from the Sibly farm. It is said to have been grown from corn found in a jar in one of the mounds which archeologists say are over a thousand years old. The corn is about 8 inches long, of a good color, and several ears grow on a stalk.

M.E. Church: Lecture title "The Bible Under the X-Rays."

Creation – Moses vs Darwin.

Evolution – Moses vs Darwin.

Chronology – Moses vs Geology.

Noah – Moses vs Ingersol.

Astronomy – Job vs Ingersol.

The nervous young lady was endeavoring to cross the track, while a freight train was switching, when she heard the commands of the conductor to his brakeman: "B Jump onto her when she comes by; run her down beyond the elevator and cut her in two, and bring the head end up to the depot." The girl jumped up and down and yelled bloody murder, but the conductor didn't even know that she was there.

December 4, 1896 Anti-Horse Thief oyster dinner.

2 cents a piece bounty on sparrows.

December 11, 1896 Among the new G.A.R. officers were: Commander – A.F. Filley, Sr. Vice-Commander – J.E. Lewis, Adjutant – R.C. Huntoon.

The W.C.T.U. meeting was a lesson in Parliamentary Law. “The ladies know that since they are so soon to have a hand in the government of the state, it behooves them to learn how to govern.”

Mother’s Club Meeting; “The Training of the Senses.”

Walton’s: 4 full pages of Xmas ads.

M. Benham and F. Goudy Jewlery Store. (Not the first ad.)

The Wednesday Afternoon Club met with Mrs. W.H. Bartlett. Mrs. E.A. Agard took the cinch prize. Tea was served at five o’clock.

Wade Bros. show window has an electrical fountain and fish pond with several thousand fish and a turtle or two. It is especially attractive at night. The fish are to be given away Saturday.

December 18, 1896

Give the Girls a Chance

The editor of a neighboring paper deplores the tendency of the girl of this day to learn how to make money for themselves, and wants them to stop crowding out the “natural bread winners” and stick to the “natural paths of modesty and sweet dependence.” Such talk is pretty common, and is for the most part unmitigated nonsense. Dependence, by a capable person, male or female, of proper spirit, is not “sweet” but the reverse. Moreover, this much slopped about “sweet dependence” often means “nothing to wear and less to eat.” “The natural paths of modesty and sweet dependence” is the masculine way of saying that a woman ought to merge her life in that of some man, probably her mental and moral inferior, to be the sport of his desires, the slave of his wants or whims, the victim of his vices, with little recognition in this world and scant hope for the next. It often means the starving of the body and soul and intellect, the wicked sacrifice of the most precious of God’s creatures on the altar of mistaken duty and pernicious prejudice.

December 25, 1896 Ed Agard has been chosen by the Glass blowers Association of this district to represent their interests before the Ways and Means Committee of Congress especially in regard to Tarriff matters. This appointment was made at the request of Congressman Dingly.

January 1, 1897 Hugh Robinson is terribly maimed in a dynamite explosion. He is permanently blinded and terribly wounded otherwise about the face. He had been blasting stumps with his son, John, and hired help, E.B. Love, Dr. Lewis was called. Drs. Parsons and Barnes assisted.

January 8, 1897 George Decker is still with the Chicago Club.

The Fin de Seicle Club met with Miss Edna Ross.

January 15, 1897 Keep your eye on Walton Bros.

Walton Bros. are facing the low price of corn with special bargains and cut figures in this big store.

Three other full page ads.

Agard's mission was successful, and he was highly complimented.

January 22, 1897 The Blade surely does go in for front page politics.

Grace Sharp is now the assistant principal of the Dwight schools. She is one of the best teachers in the county.

February 5, 1897 Farmer's Institute, John Virgin, President. In the evening, Mrs. Carroll, of Melvin, read a paper on "The Differences Between Today, and the Day of Our Mother's", "and being a rather aggressive disciple of the 'Woman's Rights' propaganda, she was inclined to lay the evils of rural femininity at the door of 'tyrant man'". Myrtle Stafford sang, and Alta Virgin gave a reading.

Incubator advertised on inner page, called "The Wooden Hen".

15 cents supper at Presbyterian Church.

Grandma Wray was 105 years old Thursday, February 4th. She is said to be the oldest person alive in the state.

February 12, 1897 Home bakery by the ladies of the M.E. Church. (First ad of sort.)

Big Cake Walk at I.O.O.F. Hall over Payne and Amsler's Clothing Store.

The Anti-Horse Thief Association had a parade. There were seventy riders in line with J.E. Lewis as marshal. Philips took a photograph. A.F. Filley was a member.

February 26, 1897

- - - - Iniquitous "Hard Road" Scheemers

Most of the "good roads" agitation comes from the cities and is based on the idea that expensive hard roads would be of great benefit to bicyclers and town people generally while the expense would have to be paid by the farmers and land owners. The farmers are almost unanimously against the saddling of a great expense upon the country people at this time which would bring very little practical benefit in a way of increasing their power to make a living. An expense that would practically amount to confiscation of the income of the land for several years. It would be an outrage.

Mesdames J.E. Lewis, H.B. Taylor, T.S.O. McDowell and M.E. Gillette gave a large reception at the Lewis home. Burch's orchestra played, and light refreshments were served.

Cartoon: Theater scene: Backs of two women with high hairdresses and fan combs, wide bow ties at the throat, and huge sleeves. Caption: "Now, Maude, if our cranky legislators and councilmen do not make us remove our dresses and wear our hair in braids, our revenge will be sweet."

John Kuenzi sets up new milk business.

March 5, 1897

G. A. R. To Farmers

A.F. Filley, Commander of the Post, asks the farmers to report any soldier graves. The Post will furnish a free marble headstone.

Chester Claudon had a party at his parents' home. "The young folks had a jolly time."

Mrs. N.E. Fulton and Mrs. P.C. James gave a reception to a number of their lady friends Tuesday afternoon at the home of the former. The guests were entertained with a "missing letter" contest, Mrs. G.Y. McDowell winning the prize. Light refreshments were served.

March 19, 1897 The John Virgin family is to move to Chicago. He has a position in the West Park System there.

James Corbett – Bob Fitzsimmons prize fight at Carson City, Nevada.

P.C. James started for Baltimore Monday evening with two thoroughbred horses which he had recently sold in that city. One of the Horses was "Satan", formerly owned by JW Morris, and the other was a two year old colt which he raised. Both animals brought good prices.

Mr. Beach is having the store room recently occupied by AN Black's grocery store, thoroughly repaired and overhauled. New fixtures, new floor, new paint, etc. will make it look as good as new.

The Fairbury City calaboose is one of the best in this part of the state, and besides serving to restrain violators of the ordinances and the like, it has sheltered at least 150 tramps during the winter. The authorities were having it scrubbed out the other day, and it presumably needed it.

April 7, 1897 Walton's have the contract for the papering and painting of Beach's store, and it "is a gem of decorative art".

April 9, 1897 A new sewer is needed for Hickory Street.

April 16, 1897 The Anti-Horse Thief Association had a pair of blood hounds here on trial. They were sent back as not satisfactory.

Westervelt and Co. advertise pure maple syrup from Ohio at \$1.00 a gallon.

The double portrait of the Walton Brothers again, larger size.

John Virgin has had a slight stroke of paralysis.

April 23, 1897 Lambert sold his grocery store in the east end to C.L. Perlee.

W.J. Bethard has bought Harrington Bros. Grocery stock. He will open a dry goods store there and close out the groceries.

A runaway team hits an electric light pole by J.E. Lewis'. The driver was thrown and injured. Drs. Lewis and Parsons were called.

May 7, 1897 Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Beach started Wednesday to Harrison, Ohio, where Mrs. Beach was born and passed her girlhood. Mrs. Beach will stop at Harrison, but Mr. Beach expects to go on to Nashville in a day or so, and will pass a few days at the Tennessee Centennial Exposition. They will be gone a couple of weeks.

Ladies high cut tan bicycle boots, \$3.00 at Walton Bros.

May 14, 1897 The Anti-Horse Thief Association has new bloodhounds. They are the real thing now.

The Alumni Yell at the Alumni Reunion: Grip Grow
Grip Grow
Grip Grow
Grow!
Yip you
Yip you
Yip you
Y-o-w-l.

"The yell was given with an energy and effectiveness that was a revelation."

T.A. Beach returned Saturday from his trip to Nashville, Tenn. Exp. Mrs. Beach also returned from her Ohio trip.

Five families of Hungarians have settled on Conrad Munz's farm and will experiment with raising tobacco and watermelons. "The houses are buildt in old country style and taken together with the surroundings make a very picturesque spot.

May 28, 1897 Otis Eastman died. He was a former Blade editor, having bought it of I.P. McDowell. The Blade office was where GB Brownson's carpenter shop now stands.

Robert Henning, a bright young man of Weston, is reading law in the office of Attorney Powell.

P.C. James received two bird dogs this week, a gift from a friend in Annapolis, Maryland. One is an English, and the other an Irish setter.

A new platform is being laid in front of the ME Church, which will not only improve the appearance of things, but remove a stumbling block.

June 18, 1897 A.F. Filley is improving the residence on his farm north of Fairbury, now occupied by Ed Demoss.

The Blade is printing Walton's advertising circulars.

Clean Up Week: "The alleys must be cleaned of manure, cowpens, pig sties, chicken coops, and water closets. Disinfect with lime or copperas." H.E. Johnson, Clerk, City Board of Health.

Walton's are to send up a balloon on the Fourth of July with an order attached to it good for a ten dollar suit of clothes. The balloon is to be sent up from the store.

Huntoon is now giving mail order instructions for crayon portraits.

First mention of Dr. Otis.

The Fairbury Colored band played at Starved Rock.

July 2, 1897 M.M. Jacobs makes button photos, photo cuff buttons, stamp photos, and all the latest novelties in the photographic line.

July 16, 1897 George Kring obituary, Lafe W. Kring was his nephew.

A thief raided A.B. Claudon's refrigerator, and the hounds were put on trial. They took the men to Forrest, where it appeared that the tramps boarded a freight train. "The members of the association are highly elated over the way the dogs followed the trail."

The Bloodhounds: "There is a movement on foot to have the animals turned over to the city and put into the custody of the Marshal. They are considerable of an elephant to take care of, and Jim Morris has lost several degrees of piety since he has had them in charge. They have dug up the bushes and trees in his yard, kept him awake nights, and made themselves generally numerous. Jim is patriotic, but he does draw the line on keeping dogs. The matter came up in the city council Wednesday evening, and was referred to the Judiciary Committee for investigation."

C.L. Perlee's Store was burglarized by a 16 year old boy from Ohio. The dogs found him.

July 30, 1897 The Howell bakery was sold to James Turner and John Woods.

A.F. Filley shipped two fine Hampshire-down rams to L.D. Smith of Shipman, Illinois, Thursday.

August 6, 1897 Lydia Von Tobel and J.N. Bach married. Mr. Bach is a salesman in the clothing dept. of Walton's Store.

J.E. Dexter, manager of the Standard Library Company is here representing that concern. He will establish a library here if the requisite support can be had. The price for charter membership is \$3.00, with no further dues or assessments.

August 13, 1897 Colored Camp meeting at the fair grounds. There were 2000 Sunday afternoon. On next Sunday afternoon Rev. Fleming will preach his famous sermon, "The Sun Do Move."

Mr. and Mrs. Percy James have moved to the residence property corner, Third and Maple Streets, owned by Rev. Wilson.

August 20, 1897 Meeting for a proposed cellulose factory for Fairbury. The citizens are to donate 50 acres of land for a site, with an option to purchase 50 more within the year.

P.C. James attended the Saybrook Fair with a string of 9 horses. George Parsons accompanied him, and took first money for boy's equestrianism.

The telephone exchange is being put in shape in Walton's Building. Twenty instruments are thus far connected. The cables for the others failed to arrive. They will eventually have 100. Work is being pushed on the line between Fairbury and Pontiac.

Fred Wright has purchased the A.C. Bartlett residence on the corner of Elm and Fifth Streets.

A crazy man of Tucker's Ford wandered away to McDowell where he was found lying down by the dogs from Fairbury.

September 3, 1897 There is a new law requiring the teaching in the common schools of physiology and hygiene with reference to the action of alcoholic beverages on the human system.

Thomas Beach is having a slate roof put on his residence.

September 8, 1897 John Conerus is still making cigars. Fumer-Fantail No. 2 – No. 5 El Progress. All are hand made.

Novelty store two doors west of the Opera House.

Fairbury is overrun by bootblacks, most of them colored, from Clark St. Chicago, Peoria, and St. Louis.

September 9, 1897 Ad: Cigars until you can't rest at Sorgs.

Ad: If you cannot cross the country
Or the frozen lands explore,
You can spend your money nearer –
There are Klondikes at your door.
Down on Main Street there is Phillips,
Over Walton's Store;
With his ever ready camera
He will meet you at the door.

P.C. James, met with a bad accident in the first heat of the 2:35 trot. A.A. Blair's horse, Count Era, shied into Mr. James' Sulky directly in front of the grand stand, overturning and breaking it. He was badly tangled up, but held onto his horse and stopped him without further damage. He was considerably bruised, but was in the next race.

September 10, 1897 A.E. Swap was so tickled over the premiums he took, that he made the Presbyterians a present of a lot of the finest canned goods you ever saw.

Walton's balloon: The air was still, and it rose beautifully to a great height and sailed away steadily to the Northeast. Thousands watched until it finally sank below the tree tops. A number of young men were hot after it on bicycles, but Charles Fetzer got in first and captured the prize. The balloon came down in Hugh Robinson's field a little north and west of the Fugate school house.

September 17, 1897 Cora Evans, teacher of the Third Grade, Southside, is ill, Lura Kirby is taking her place.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bartlett gave a moonlight picnic party at Tucker's Ford.

Meeting of the stockholders of the Fairbury Library to elect officers for the coming year.

P.C. James is attending the El Paso Fair with a string of premium takers.

JG Bach, proprietor of the novelty store. The Fairbury steam cider mill and Hydraulic Press, owned by Conrad Munz, will operate every day during September and October.

Ad: Walton Bros. Retailers of Everything.

Ad: Dresden clocks lots cheaper here than you can buy them of the peddlers. Walton Bros.

Dog and Pony show at the Opera House.

October 1, 1897 Fairbury is to have a cellulose factory. They have an option on the Thomas George place North west of town. The mills will be run by electricity.

The school ball club is to play Forrest.

October 8, 1897 G.A.R. Campfire at their Hall. The orator was a Colonel of the Confederate Army.

Ad: Leather stockings for children 15 cents and 25 cents a pair, Payne and Amsler.

"Alta Virgin is dangerously ill, and very ill of consumption."

Purdum's ad: 3 lb. can of pumpkin 5 cents; 3 lb. can of peaches 10 cents.

October 15, 1897 A Bloomington Attorney has been here to complete buying the George property for the cellulose factory.

October 22, 1897 The boys in the Northwest part of town are throwing stones at each other going home from school. One boy had his hip dislocated, and another had his lip cut open.

Ad: Payne and Amsler: The regular 75 cents underwear now 50 cents; all wool 75 cents; heavy cotton 25 cents, elsewhere sold at 35 cents.

A.B. Claudon, alderman.

October 29, 1897

The Annie Land Case

The late housekeeper for Dr. Salisbury of Strawn for 15 years. Her own father was dead, and her mother and step father were Catholics. She was taken suddenly ill, and her family persuaded the

priest to go. Dr. Salisbury virtually ordered him from the house, and the girl died soon after. The relatives accused the Doctor of abortion, and had the body exhumed. An autopsy, held under the direction of the States Attorney gave the verdict that the charge was unfounded, and death had occurred from a rupture of the right ovarian cyst. Her relatives demanded her body for a Catholic burial. Salisbury refused. He said the girl was of age and had lived with him for nine years, and that he had a right to say what should be done, and the services were conducted by a Protestant preacher. An attempt is now being made to obtain the body by legal proceedings.

Lots of nice new board walk is being laid.

November 5, 1897 Attending the Chicago Horse Show; Harry Bartlett, J.E. Lewis, N.E. Fulton, Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Filley, Nellie Lewis, Goldie Cook, Gertrude McDowell, Mr. and Mrs. G.Y. McDowell, Isaac McDowell, and H.B. Taylor.

November 12, 1897 Revilo Oliver became perfectly infatuated with a Maude Harris of Bloomington, a female sport of unenviable notoriety, who represented herself as wealthy. They signed a pre-nuptial contract conveying half of their respective properties to each other. Oliver was worth about \$32,000. She lived with him one day, then left for Bloomington and resumed her old ways. He followed her and found her out, and tried to get a divorce. His attorneys were charging him \$8,000 for it. The Judge granted the divorce and annulled the contract. He didn't want to pay his lawyers all that money; so he remarried the woman. "Revilo Oliver has made history pretty fast lately and there will no doubt be a chapter or two to add before the episode is closed."

The contracts have been let for the cellulose building.

(The Blade has been having a great many cuts, especially for advertising.)

A.F. Filley has been exhibiting 24 head of sheep at the Horse Show in Chicago.

November 19, 1897 Revilo Oliver is not remarried. The Blade regrets its error.

Ad: (This has been running for several years) Dr. WW Salisbury specialist in all eye, ear, catarrh, chronic and surgical diseased. (has regular days at the Sherman Hotel, Fairbury.)

November 26, 1897 A fine scale house at the Cellulose Factory has been going up.

After Revilo Oliver's Home

A suit in forcible detainer will be tried in Chatsworth today to get possession of the residence property now occupied by Mr. Revilo Oliver for the party to whom Mrs. Maude Barlow sold it. Mrs. Barlow traded land for this property before she married Oliver. Oliver was given 30 day notice to vacate, and will fight the order.

Handy for the Boys

The performance of young man while waiting around outside the doors of churches during service waiting for the girls causes much annoyance and vexation. One up to date suggestion is said to have adopted in some places where the churches have placed slates in the vestibule on which the

girls register their names as they enter. This makes it convenient for the boys who consult it to find who is within, this saving the congregations from many drafts of cold from frequent opening of doors.

Mrs. H.H. Taylor, of Bryan, Ohio, mother of H.S.B. Taylor, and sister of J.E. and Dr. G.C. Lewis, has returned home after two months visit with her son and other relatives.

D.D. Fultz will commence teaching the Rudd school east of Fairbury Monday.

December 3, 1897 Revilo Rampant! Revilo Oliver has filed suit for fraud.

December 10, 1897 The Blade is printing Walton Bros. Xmas Greetings to all customers.

Mr. Petefish of Peoria called the figures for the Thanksgiving dance.

December 17, 1897 Conerus cigar, La Belle Anna.

Christmas store windows: Bethard's has a Santa Clause who goes into a cabin and lights up the interior. This always has a crowd around it. Walton's display was made up by Charles Neitz. It was a ship made of shirts, neckties and umbrellas. They also had a window of toys. Stuckey and Co. had a sawmill scene.

December 24, 1897 Emory Gregg has been appointed postmaster.

December 31, 1897 The cornstalk market is now open and doing a lively business. Big loads of cornstalks are quite a feature on the streets this week. They are piled in gigantic stacks, and in such a way as to turn the rain and insure their keeping in good condition.

The cellulose factory subscriptions are now due at the bank.

Ad: Dr. Devoe is at the Thomas House. He is the Surgeon-in-Chief Inter State Association of Expert Specialists. Cures are guaranteed.